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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Consumption of pepper by people in our country rests with the people themselves. I do not know what connection there is between giving loans and subsidies to pepper-growers and the price of pepper. Perhaps, if more pepper is grown, the price may come down. But I may tell the hon. Member the present situation. As a result of keen demand from overseas buyers reflecting uncertainties over the Suez Canal situation, the price of pepper shot up recently by over 10 per cent in the Cochin market. Trade circles anticipate improved conditions in the hill produce market to continue in view of the U.S. demand for pepper possibly for stock-piling.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : What is the quantity of export from our State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would like to have notice.

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : Will the Government organize wholesale co-operative stores for the purchase and sale of pepper at a floor price to be fixed by the Government so as to prevent a fall in price?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : As to what the Government should do, I would like to have notice. But the hon. Member also may take steps to organize societies and Government will extend all facilities.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : There are two aspects to this question. One is the need for the exploration of foreign markets and it has been said that the Government are already attending to it. The other aspect is that, in spite of the good price that pepper fetches, poor growers are not getting the benefit of it. The fact is that usurers and others approach them and take their pepper garden on lease at the beginning of the season when the peppervines begin to shoot. Pepper growers are poor and hence there is need for giving them some aid. The aid may be in the form of starting co-operative marketing societies.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have already answered that the Government will extend necessary facilities in the matter of organisation of co-operative marketing societies.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions 263 and 264 may be taken together.

Starting an Industrial School at Cannanore

* 263 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to unstarred question No. 732 on 22nd March 1956—

(*a*) the amount sanctioned by the Government for starting an Industrial School at Cannanore; and

(*b*) when the school will be started?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The Government have sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 8·65 lakhs for the Industrial School at Cannanore;

(*b*) The school was started on 27th August 1956.

* 264 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer to unstarred question No. 732 on 22nd March 1956 when the proposed Industrial School at Cannanore will be opened?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Industrial School at Cannanore was started on 27th August 1956.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know the strength of the institution at present?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Twelve courses with a strength of 20 seats in each are to be started in this school. Six courses are to be started this year and another six courses next year. I have no information about the present actual strength of this school.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : How many courses have actually been started this year?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no information as to how many courses have been actually started.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated 26th September 1956, from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

"In accordance with Rule 115 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1956 (L.C. Bill No. 5 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Council on the 26th September 1956 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Assembly."

III.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* THE FUTURE OF THE MALABAR DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS EMPLOYEES.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice under rule 40 from Sri Kunhi Mohamed Shafee calling the attention of the Minister for Local Administration to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the future of the Malabar District Board and its employees.

* SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 40 I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Local Administration to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the future of the Malabar District Board and its employees.